

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 11418 241654Z

62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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USIA-15 IO-14 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 NIC-01 HUD-02 EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1075

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11418

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EGEN ETRD UR

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S CALLS: I.T. NOVIKOV

1. SUMMARY: DURING HOUR-LONG INTRODUCTORY CALL JULY 23, DEPUTY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS CHAIRMAN AND GOSSTROY CHAIRMAN IGNATIY T. NOVIKOV COVERED US-SOVIET RELATIONS IN GENERAL AS WELL AS VARIOUS ASPECTS OF SOVIET CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PLANS. NOVIKOV TOOK SPECIAL PAINS TO STRESS NEED FOR MFN AT EARLY DATE, BROUGHT UP BREZHNEV PROPOSAL FOR NUCLEAR-FREE MEDITERRANEAN AND TALKED ABOUT SOVIET PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW US-SOVIET COOPERATION AGREEMENT IN HOUSING FIELD. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RESPONSE TO PRAISE OF HIS HANDSOME OFFICE IN CENTRALLY AIR-CONDITIONED BUILDING JUST OFF GORKIY STREET, NOVIKOV REMARKED THAT MANY MORE SUCH STRUCTURES WILL NOW BE BUILT: "WE ARE BUDGETING 105 BILLION RUBLES PER YEAR FOR CONSTRUCTION, MUCH OF IT OF COURSE IN MOSCOW, BUT THE MAJOR PORTION ELSEWHERE IN USSR." TURNING IMMEDIATELY TO POLITICAL MATTERS, HE COMMENTED THAT "WHOLE WORLD IS TALING" ABOUT ACHIEVEMENTS AT THREE SUMMITS. "BUT STILL YOU HAVE SOME FORCES WHO DO NOT SUPPORT DETENTE." TO MY REPLY THAT WHILE SOME

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 11418 241654Z

OPPOSITION EXISTS, BASED IN PART ON QUESTIONING OF

SOVIET POLICY AND FEAR OF SOVIET INTENTIONS, GREAT MAJORITY IS IN FAVOR OF RELAXATION OF TENSIONS, HE REPLIED: "BUT THEY (THE CRITICS) DO EXIST, AND IT WOULD BE BETTER IF THEY DID NOT." RECOGNIZING THAT PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY ARE WORKING TO OVERCOME THESE PROBLEMS, NOVIKOV NEXT REMINISCED ABOUT HIS 1964 TRIP TO US. RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON DURING HEAT OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN, JOHNSON, ACCORDING TO NOVIKOV, TALKED ABOUT CAMPAIGN, "DESCRIBING GOLDWATER AS MAD." NOW, HOWEVER, GOLDWATER IS SUPPORTER OF PRESIDENT. ATTRIBUTING RECENT CHANGES IN US-SOVIET RELATIONS TO EFFORTS OF PRESIDENT NIXON, NOVIKOV QUOTED RUSSIAN SAYING TO EFFECT THAT TIME IS BEST HEALER, CLAIMING SOVIET POLICY HAS REMAINED CONSTANT AND IMPLYING US VIEWS ARE NOW COMING NEARER THAT POLICY. NOVIKOV REFERRED TO BREZHNEV'S ANNOUNCEMENT IN WARSAW THAT HE HAD PROPOSED THE CONCEPT OF A NUCLEAR WEAPON-FREE MEDITERRANEAN DURING THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT VISIT. NOVIKOV THOUGHT IT WOULD BE WELL IF WE COULD NOW WORK IN THIS DIRECTION. IN REPLY, I RECALLED DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT AT SUMMIT MEETING AND SAID IT WAS SOMETHING WE WERE NOT PREPARED TO CONSIDER AT THIS TIME. I STRESSED NEED TO PROCEED STEP-BY-STEP IN DEVELOPING OUR RELATIONS.

3. PICKING UP THIS REMARK NOVIKOV MENTIONED MFN AS ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT TO CONTINUED PROGRESS. HE SET FORTH STANDARD SOVIET ARGUMENT THAT USSR HAS DEVELOPED FOR MANY YEARS WITHOUT US HELP AND OPPONENTS OF DETENTE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THIS, BUT WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN DO MUCH MORE MUCH FASTER AND MORE EFFECTIVELY.

4. WHEN I MENTIONED EMIGRATION AS PROBLEM, NOVIKOV COMMENTED ONLY BRIEFLY, DESCRIBING THE ISSUE AS "AN INTERNAL AFFAIR--NOT SUITABLE FOR REVIEW IN THE U.S. CONGRESS." RECOGNIZING EFFORTS OF PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY TO ACHIEVE MFN, NOVIKOV STRESSED SOVIET VIEW THAT QUESTION NEEDS TO BE SETTLED, AND HE THINKS AMERICAN BUSINESS CIRCLES ARE WAITING FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACTION BEFORE RESUMING FULL MOMENTUM OF COMMERCIAL INITIATIVES WITH USSR.

5. TURNING TO HIS PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, NOVIKOV
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 11418 241654Z

REMARKED THAT US DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HE IS IN CHARGE OF ALL CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION IN USSR. THIS MEANS OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES OF TEN MINISTRIES WHO PAY OUT 45 BILLION RUBLES EACH YEAR IN WAGES TO CONSTRUCTION WORKERS, AND EVEN THAT MAGNITUDE OF EXPENDITURE IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO SATISFY SOVIET REQUIREMENTS.

6. NOVIKOV NOTED THAT DOBRYNIN, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY,

HAD RECENTLY SUGGESTED FIRST SESSION OF NEW JOINT ENERGY COMMISSION TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON, AND FIRST SESSION OF JOINT HOUSING COMMISSION IN MOSCOW, BOTH IN OCTOBER 1974, AND THAT MEETING SITES THEN ALTERNATE BETWEEN TWO CAPITALS.

7. SPEAKING SPECIFICALLY OF HOUSING AGREEMENT, NOVIKOV COMMENTED HE ANTICIPATED MANY MUTUAL ADVANTAGES AND AN EXPANDING RANGE OF AREAS SUITABLE FOR JOINT WORK. HE MENTIONED MASS HOUSING CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES AND EARTHQUAKE-RESISTANT STRUCTURES AS TWO PARTICULARLY PROMISING FIELDS. WHILE HE SIDESTEPED ANY COMMITMENT, HE AGREED THAT A VISIT BY US SIDE TO TASHKENT AND ELSEWHERE IN TURKESTAN WOULD BE DESIRABLE. NOVIKOV ALSO MENTIONED SOVIET EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION ACHIEVEMENTS, SAYING THAT 13 DAYS BEFORE FIRST TREMOR SOVIETS KNOW DIASTROPHISM WOULD OCCUR IN TASHKENT REGION AND CORRECTLY IDENTIFIED DATE AND TIME OF DAY WHICH PERMITTED SUITABLE WARNING TO LOCAL RESIDENTS.

8. CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE IN OPEN, RELAXED ATMOSPHERE, AND CONCLUDED WITH GENERAL EXCHANGE OF REMARKS ON POLLUTION CONTROL IN URBAN AREAS FOLLOWED BY CUSTOMARY COURTESIES. STOESEL

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